

From: Ty Brewer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:58am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a computer professional I am quite upset at the proposed Microsoft settlement because it fails to adequately protect the consumers from future Microsoft behavior, nor does it punish Microsoft for their illegal behavior. I am not advocating punishment for the sake of punishment, but as a means of creating more competition in this most vital industry.

Microsoft is without peer in operating systems, consumer applications and back-office server applications. Sadly, we are all too often forced to adopt an "all or none" approach when making software decisions because we fear the brute force Microsoft brings to bear on future competitors. It is far safer for us to pick Microsoft products than those from a competitor because Microsoft has clearly shown a willingness and ability to destroy competitors.

Our company picked the Netscape browser as our corporate standard, yet two years later had to reverse ourselves. This decision was not based on the superiority of Microsoft's Internet Explorer, but on the reality that the Netscape browser was more and more frequently being forced off the desktop of new PCs. This created an additional burden on us to provide the browser that formerly had been installed by default on every new computer. Microsoft, in effect, made that decision for us.

I urge the US government to take action against Microsoft to restore the possibility of competition. If this is not done now, it will most certainly be necessary in the future.

The proposed settlement is bad for everyone except Microsoft.

Ty Brewer

